



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.1635 | FAX (517) 373.3300

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/vanwoerkom/

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 5, 2003

Contact: Kirk Hanna
(517) 373-1635

Senate begins hearings on package that will increase fight for Michigan jobs

Lansing – Hearings on the Tool & Die package, part of the nine-point Job Opportunities for Business Success plan introduced recently by House and Senate Republicans are set to begin Thursday, Nov. 6.

Sen. Gerald Van Woerkom (R-Norton Shores) said the program will help create manufacturing jobs, spur new small-business investment for more job opportunities and provide incentives to expand the state's slow-moving economy by getting Michigan residents back to work.

"This package will help create and keep jobs for Michigan residents," said Van Woerkom, who sponsored a resolution to Congress in the Tool & Die package. "Job growth and retention is our top priority."

The JOBS plan would:

- Create Tool & Die Recovery Zones to provide tax relief similar to existing Renaissance Zones. The bill was introduced Tuesday, Nov. 4.
- Reauthorize, strengthen and provide more accountability for the Michigan Economic Growth Authority, which expires on Dec. 31. MEGA is the state's main tax-incentive granting authority used to spur economic development. The package was voted out of the Commerce and Labor Committee Tuesday, Nov. 4.
- Create a venture capital investment incentive by offering income and Single Business Tax breaks to those who might lose money investing in Michigan start-up businesses. The bill was introduced Tuesday, Nov. 4.

(More)

- Establish a Clean Michigan Initiative revolving loan program to clean up abandoned brownfield sites. This program would transfer the remaining CMI funding into a grant and loan program. The bills are before the full Senate.
- Provide tax incentives for small start-up businesses by exempting them from most taxes for the first two years of operation then phasing in tax liabilities for the following four years.
- Improve Michigan's infrastructure by expediting the 2002 voter approved Sewer Bond Initiative to allow communities to start construction projects sooner.
- Call on the Michigan Economic Development Corporation to provide a small-business "czar" and a manufacturing "czar" with the experience and vision to focus on small-business start-ups as well as retaining and creating manufacturing jobs.
- Implement a Forestry Initiative that would adopt forest management changes to protect the environment and create new job opportunities by strengthening Michigan's timber industry.

The Senate has teamed up with the House of Representatives to make this plan a success by taking action to provide more jobs for Michigan residents as quickly as possible.

The Senate Committee on Commerce and Labor will hold hearings on the Tool & Die package Thursday, Nov. 6 at 1 p.m. in room 810 of the Farnum Building.

###